

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JUNE 26, 1848.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. DOWNS, made the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. No. 296.]

The Committee on Private Land Claims, to whom was referred the petition and papers of Robert W. Richards, praying that a patent may issue to him for a certain tract of land, report:

That the claim was recommended for confirmation in Sutton's report from the land office at Monroe, La., on the 1st of January, 1821, and confirmed by act of Congress of 28th February, 1823. But the survey has never been approved and a patent issued, in consequence of the suspicion of fraud which has been thrown on many of the claims in that report. Many of these claims have been for valuable considerations and in good faith on the part of the purchaser conveyed to others who knew nothing of the fraud; in such cases, and where there is no adverse claim either for a pre-emption or otherwise, it seems to be the opinion of the government, and of all who have investigated the question, that the claim ought to be recognized, and a patent to issue. The commissioner does not, however, seem disposed to do so without authority from Congress, and the committee not having been able yet to agree on a general bill applicable to all the cases, report, herewith, a bill for this case, and recommend that it pass.

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

June 25, 1815

Submitted, and ordered to be printed

Mr. Danks made the following

REPORT

[The committee on the 25th of June, 1815]

The Committee on Private Land Claims, to whom was referred the petition and report of Robert W. Richards, praying that a patent may issue to him for a certain tract of land, report

That the claim was recommended for confirmation in January 1821, and confirmed by act of Congress of 28th February, 1823, but the survey has never been approved and a patent issued in consequence of the suspension of land which has been issued in many of the claims in that report. Many of these claims have been for valuable communications and to good faith on the part of the purchaser conveyed to others who have nothing of the lands in such cases, and where there is no adverse claim either for a pre-emption or otherwise, it seems to be the opinion of the government, and of all who have investigated the question, that the claim ought to be recognized, and a patent to issue. The commissioner has not however, seem disposed to do so without authority from Congress, and the committee not having been able yet to agree on a general bill applicable to all the cases, report herewith a bill for this case, and recommend that it pass.